

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Junichi (JP '371) in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,969) or Smith et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,009,856). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Junichi and Smith or Kato as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Kenji.

In the seal washer 11 of the present invention, the rubber-like elastic portion 11b is fitted to an outer peripheral surface of the metal ring 11a. In addition, the rubber-like elastic portion 11b is positioned on a radially outward side of the fuel injection valve with respect to the metal ring 11a.

In contrast, in the gas seal 1c of Kenji, the elastic portion 5 is fitted to an inner peripheral surface of the metal conical spring washer 2c (Figs. 7 and 8).

Also, the shape and the compressed state of the metal ring 11a of the present invention are quite different from that of the metal washers 2, 2c and 2d in Kenji.

The above described features of the seal washer 11 are described in detail on pages 27 and 28 of the amended specification presented in the Amendment of April 1, 2008.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably

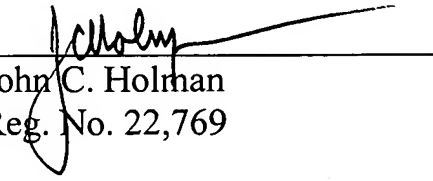
distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: _____


John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
Date: October 14, 2008
JCH/JLS:ms